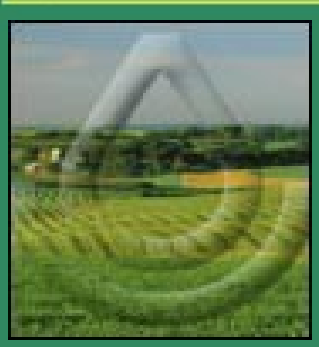
NRCS Farm Bill 2002



**Conservation Provisions of the 2002 Farm Bill (Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002)**

# APPLYING CONSERVATION TO THE TEXAS LANDSCAPE

Norman Bade, NRCS State Resource Conservationist

# Conservation Provisions of the 2002 Farm Bill

## Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002

# The 2002 Farm Bill

- Represents the single most significant commitment of resources toward conservation on private lands in the Nation’s history
- Places strong emphasis on the conservation of working lands, ensuring that land remain both healthy and productive

# Conservation Programs

- Programs that:
  - Protect and Enhance Natural Resources
  - Assist producers in the application of their conservation plans
  - Offer Technical, Financial and Educational Assistance on Privately Owned Land
  - Are voluntary

NRCS

# Farm Bill 2002

## Assist Agricultural Producers Address Conservation Problems

NRCS

# Farm Bill 2002

## Provide Financial and Technical Assistance to Plan, Design, and Install Conservation Measures

# Conservation Program Highlights

- Conservation Technical Assistance
- 2002 Farm Bill Programs

# Conservation Technical Assistance

- Provide Technical Assistance to SWCD cooperators in:
  - Developing conservation plans and Implementing Conservation Systems to meet producer goals for resource protection
  - Providing treatment of natural resource problems on Soil, Water, Air, Plant, and Animal Resources

# Conservation Programs

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)
- Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)
- Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP)
- Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)
- Conservation Security Program (CSP)
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

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# Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

# EQIP Key Points

- Promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible National goals
- Provides technical and financial assistance
- Applications are accepted throughout the year

# EQIP Key Points (cont'd)

- Uses conservation district locally-led process
- Allows more flexibility for local decisions
- Provides financial assistance for structural, vegetative, and management practices
- Requires an EQIP plan of operations

# EQIP Funding Summary Texas FY 2003

- Total Funds - $46,766,090
- County Based Funding - $22,666,086
- Special State Concerns - $24,100,004

# EQIP Funding Summary

- State Special Concerns
  - Water Quality
  - Water Quantity - Irrigation
  - AFO/CAFO (Beef, Swine, Dairy, Poultry)
  - Invasive Species
  - Brush Control for Water Conservation
  - Wildlife Habitat

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# Farmland Protection Program (FPP)

# FRPP Key Points

- FPP is designed to protect the best agricultural land from conversion to non-agricultural uses
- Provides matching funds to organizations with existing farmland protection programs to purchase conservation easements
- Landowners retain all rights to use the property for agriculture

# FRPP Funding Summary
# Texas FY 2003

- Two areas have been identified for funding
- Total Funds Obligated - $1,285,699

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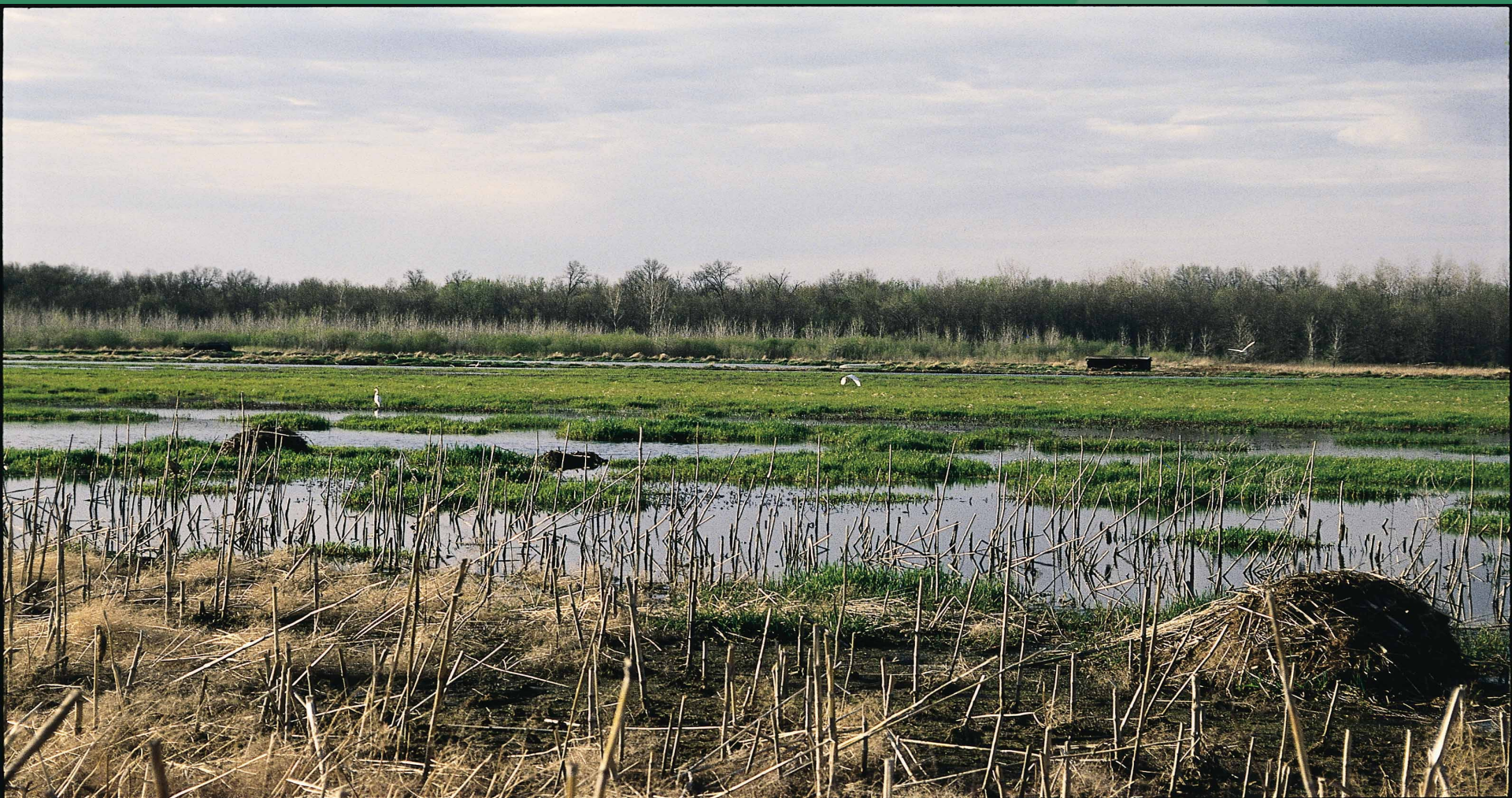
# Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)



# WRP Key Points

- Provides technical and financial assistance to eligible landowners to restore degraded wetlands and address wildlife habitat, soil, water, and related natural resource concerns
- Landowners can enter into permanent, or 30 year easements or restoration agreements

# WRP Key Points

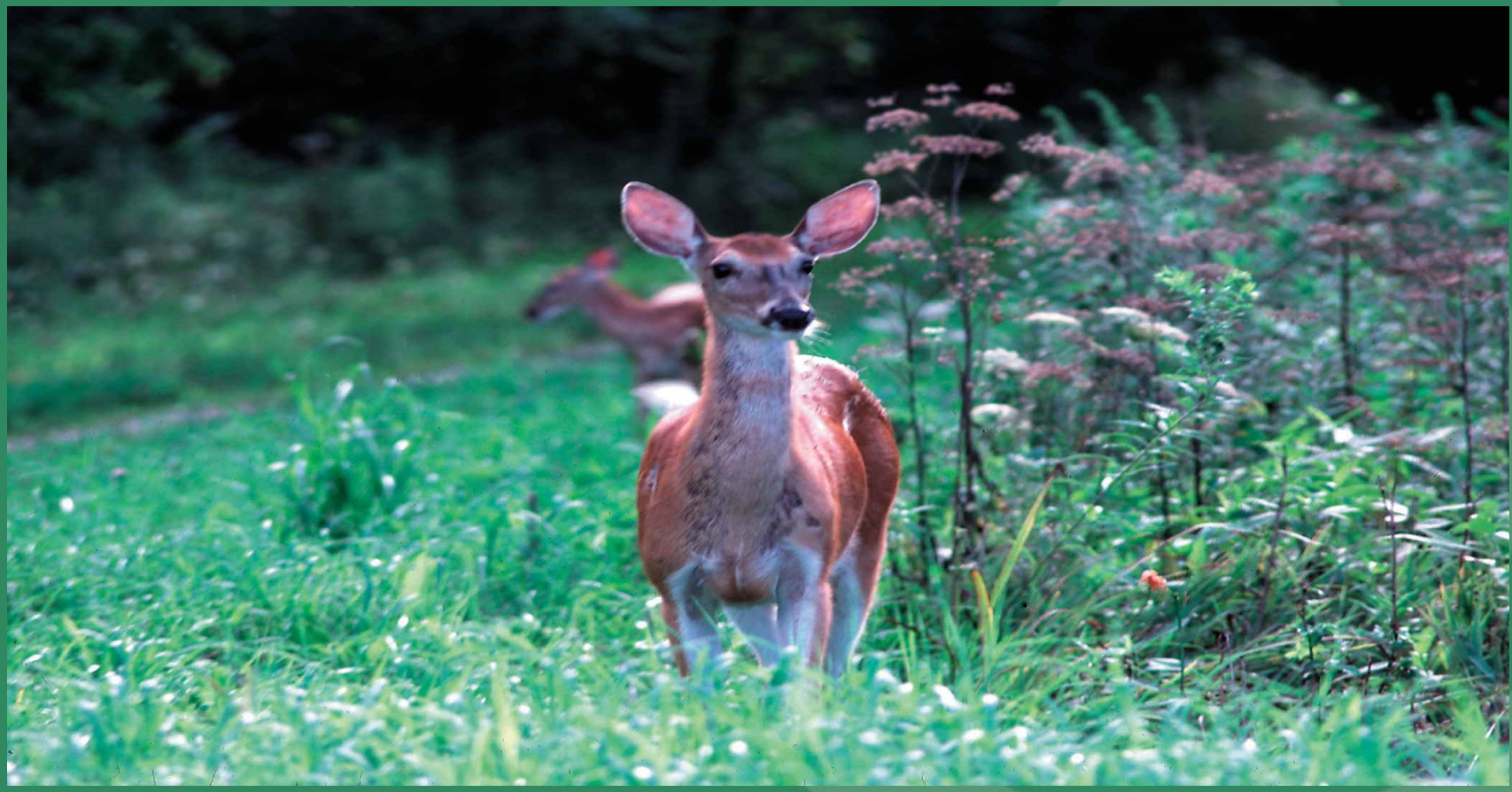
- Allows the Secretary to enroll up to 250,000 acres annually, up to a total of 2,275,000 acres
- Texas - Have enrolled 94 projects restoring 59, 000 acres of degraded wetlands

# WRP Funding Summary
# Texas FY 2003

- 13 Easements
- 23,888 acres
- $7,000,000

NRCS Farm Bill 2002

# Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)



# WHIP Key Points

- Offers opportunities to landowners to improve and protect wildlife habitat on private and Tribal lands
- Provides cost-share payments under 5- to 10-year agreements for upland, wetland, riparian, and aquatic wildlife habitats

# WHIP Funding Summary Texas FY 2003

- 18 contracts
- 53,00 Acres
- $300,000

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# Grassland Reserve Program

# GRP Key Points

- Offers opportunities to landowners to restore and protect grassland, including rangeland and pastureland
- Provides payment for permanent easements, 30 year easement, and 10 to 30 year rental payments

# GRP Funding Summary FY 2003

- Texas allocated $7,685,855
- Received $367,714,796 in requests (1549 applications)
- Funded 19 contracts
- 30,646 Acres
- $7,685,855

# CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)

- Administered by Farm Service Agency
- Technical Assistance from Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Permanent cover on environmentally sensitive land
- Water Quality, Wildlife Habitat, Air Quality, Erosion Control

# CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)

- Producers Accepted into CRP receive annual rental payments and cost share to plant permanent cover
- Average annual rental payment is about $35/Ac
- Contract are for 10 - 15 years

# CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP) TEXAS

- Total Acres in CRP 3,763,943
- No. Counties with CRP 182
- No. Farms with CRP 20,375
- No. Acres in Trees 80,462
- Annual Rental Payments $140,000,000

# Conservation Security Program (CSP)

# CSP Key Points

- CSP provides payment for addressing resource concerns on working land
- CSP is a resource concern driven program, not conservation practice driven

# CSP Key Points (cont'd)

- Resource concerns include:
  - Water quality (ground and surface), water quantity
  - Soil erosion, soil deposition, soil quality
  - Air quality
  - Plant suitability, plant condition, plant management
  - Animal habitat, animal management

# CSP Key Points (cont'd)

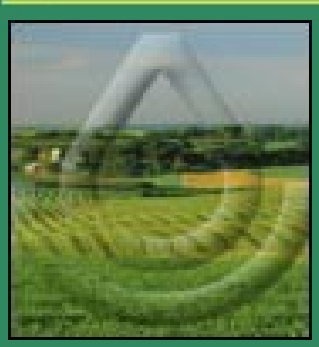
- CSP must undergo rule making – more information will be available soon

# Summary 2003

| Program | 2003 Funding |
|---|---|
| EQIP | $46,766,090 |
| WHIP | $ 300,000 |
| WRP | $ 7,000,000 |
| GRP | $ 7,685,855 |
| FRPP | $ 1,285,699 |
| CRP | $140,000,000 |
| Total | $203,037,644 |

# Impact for Texas

- 5,698,865 Acres Received Conservation Treatment providing for Protection or Enhancement of natural resources (Soil, Water, Air, Plant, Animals)
- Agricultural Producers are receiving $160,937,000 in financial assistance



**United States Department of Agriculture**

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

# For More Information, visit:

- Your local USDA Service Center
- Your local conservation district
- http://www.nrcs.usda.gov

# How to Participate

- Contact Your Local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) or USDA Service Center
- Become SWCD Cooperator
- Request Assistance in Development of Conservation Plan
- Sign-up for Applicable Farm Bill Program(s)

The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort
to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment.